



UTAH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL

UDVC Newsletter

Volume II, Issue I

Winter 2004

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Where should victims of domestic violence turn for help?

If you work in the domestic violence field you have more than likely been asked the question "Why don't they leave?". If you don't work in the field or don't understand the dynamics of DV you have probably asked that question yourself. As you sit back this holiday season and enjoy the comforts and security of "piece of mind", imagine for a moment the lack of peace in the life of a victim of domestic violence.

Imagine this victim as a woman with three children and one on the way. She's had enough, she's going to leave and she wants to check what is available to her before she steps out into the unknown. She has a part time job making \$9.00/hr. Her husband has a good job. He makes good money, has insurance, benefits and a company car.

If she leaves and goes to a shelter there is a possibility she may be one of the 1,590 families in the state of Utah that has to find an alternate safe place to stay, because the shelter in her area is full. If the domestic violence shelter in her area does have a place for her, she and her children will become four of the 5,442 women and children to stay in a shelter in Utah (the total number of men receiving DV shelter in 2003 was 30).

Once she leaves she has to think about how far that \$1,400.00 dollars month she

makes will go. She will qualify for food stamps, but \$371.00 a month isn't enough to feed four people. The victim in this story also makes a little too much to qualify for TANF (Temporary Aid for Needy Families).

Our victim may want to file for a divorce, if so she'll need to pay for an attorney because Legal Aid is back logged about six months and she can't do a pro se divorce because there are children and possibly property involved. What about health insurance? If she gets a divorce she won't be covered by her husband's health insurance anymore, and if she takes her children with her they won't be covered either, unless the court orders him to do so. She could apply for CHIP for her children and PCN for herself... if it is open enrollment time, which occurs for about a two week period, twice a year.

What about when she leaves the shelter? If the shelter has transitional housing, which is available at five of the 16 shelters in Utah, then she could stay there for part of the projected one to three years it will take her to reach the top of the housing assistance list; these housing assistance options are of course dependant upon her not being an undocumented immigrant.

What about mental health services? The victim in this story makes \$134.00 too much to qualify for Medicaid.

Even if she did qualify for Medicaid, at the same time we are seeing large increases in the need for mental health and substance abuse counseling, in both rural and urban shelters, restrictions for accessing these counseling services through Medicaid are increasing.

The circumstances described here are all too familiar to those who work with domestic violence victims on a regular basis. The services available for victims of domestic violence, and their children, are being accessed at an alarming rate. From 2000 to 2003 information and referral calls to the Midvale City Victim Advocate Program increased 400%.

The first year CAPSA, the domestic violence shelter in Logan, UT, opened its doors its two case workers held a total of 129 case work sessions, last year CAPSA's four case workers held 5,000 case work sessions.

If this all sounds overwhelming that's simply because it is. You may be asking if there is a hotline a victim can call to sort some of this out. There is. In fact from 1994 to 2003 approximately 50,000 people were served by Utah's DV Linkline. The Linkline, like all other domestic violence services in Utah has seen a huge increase in its usage. Last year alone the Linkline received approximately

Article continued on next page.



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Anyone can learn about the basics of domestic violence for free with only a computer and internet access.

Domestic Violence Help Cont.

2,509 calls, if you add that to the 39,532 hotline calls received by domestic violence shelters around the state you will see that Utah received over 42,000 domestic violence hotline calls in 2003 alone.

From its inception, in 1993, until 2003 the Linkline has seen a 42% increase in the number of people it serves in a year. That number will only increase with the Linkline's extended hours of operation; In 1993 the Linkline operated from 8:30 am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday; starting in 2005 it will be operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The most disturbing part of this story is not the

alarming increase in DV services being accessed; it is that the funding for these services has decreased and will continue to do so if changes are not made soon. Victim Advocate programs are holding fund raisers so they will be able to send families in need of shelter to hotels when local shelters are full, state and shelter case workers are seeing triple the case loads they used to have and services for battered immigrant women are almost non-existent; yet last year Utah was allocated less federal grant monies for DV programs than we have been in the past.

While there is no magical answer to all of these

problems, there are things that everyone can do. Some of the immediate things you can do are: start attending your local domestic violence coalition meetings, volunteer your time at a shelter or other DV program, and/or call your local government officials and ask them what they are doing. To be a part of more long term solutions to the devastation domestic violence causes **get involved**. For more information about the statistics in this article or how to get involved, contact the UDVC office at (801) 521-5544.

Want to know more about DV? Try taking an online course.

Wishing you could brush up on your domestic violence basics? Need to satisfy training requirements for your agency or business? Well, sign up for web-based training with the Utah Domestic Violence Council.

Starting January 2005, UDVC will be offering a four-hour training course to anyone who needs or wants domestic violence basic training. The course will be available on any computer with Internet access

and a browser, and a certificate of completion will be made available to those who request one for a small fee.

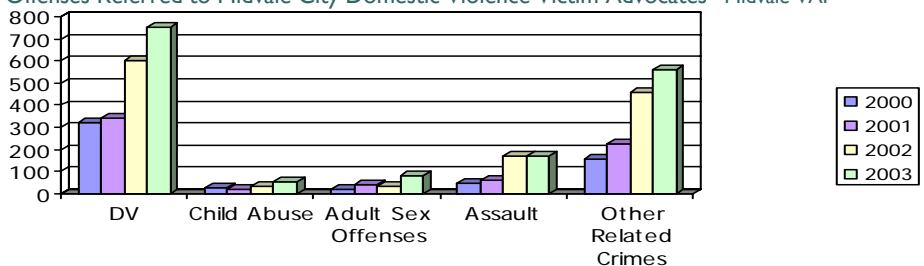
The course will cover everything from the statutory definitions of domestic violence in Utah to the role that society plays in the lives of victims and abusers. This course is the first of many expected to be developed in the future by UDVC in order to help succeed at its mission of leading a collaborative, statewide

effort to eliminate domestic violence.

For more information on the upcoming DV 101 web-based training course, contact Amber McKee at (801) 521-5544 x105 or amckee@udvc.org. Watch the UDVC website (www.udvc.org) for live and web-based training information and events.

-Amber McKee,
UDVC Training Coordinator

Types of Offenses Referred to Midvale City Domestic Violence Victim Advocates –Midvale VAP



A Message From the UDVC Chair

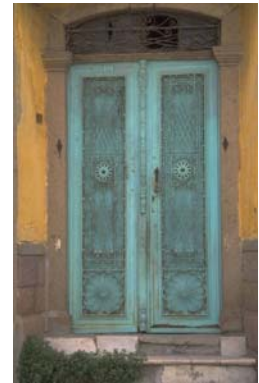
Whether you feel comfortable with the term “feminist” or not, ending battering is a core value in the movement for the equality of women in our society. Decent jobs open doors for women to be safe and independent and free of violence. A couple of decades ago, when I first started working with Utah Women’s Lobby on issues of domestic violence, it was mostly women and a handful of men working alongside. Today, men’s voices are louder in the movement to end violence against women. Both women

and men feel more comfortable speaking out loud to address offenders. In unison we are beginning to say, “We won’t tolerate violence in our homes, in our workplace, or in our community.”

I am grateful to be surrounded with so many great women and men, dedicated to UDVC’s mission, philosophy and goals to lead a collaborative effort to end domestic violence. This year will be a year of changes with our new governance structure. Change

is difficult; it takes commitment, communication, courage, and time. The main ingredient is you. May we always remember our “vision” to keep victims safe. You can count on me to support you in your decisions to keep that vision, to help survivors believe in themselves, to dream a better life and ultimately live it.

-Brandy Farmer,
UDVC Chair, Survivor



“Decent jobs open doors for women to be safe, independent and free of violence. “

First UDVC Live Basic Training A Success

The Utah Domestic Violence Council recently hosted its first ever live domestic violence basic training on Nov. 1, 2, and 3, 2004. More than 30 domestic violence professionals participated in the three-day training, which was held at the Sanderson Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Taylorsville. Overall, participants gave the training a ranking of 4.7 out of 5 possible points.

Many local domestic violence experts and UDVC Council members and staff shared their knowledge and expertise with the participants. In addition to the presentation

schedule, participants were treated to a "Victim/Abuser for a Day" role-play as part of Community Resources and Collaboration. They had to approach local community agency representatives for help and advice in dealing with their "DV problems," while avoiding "interruption cards."

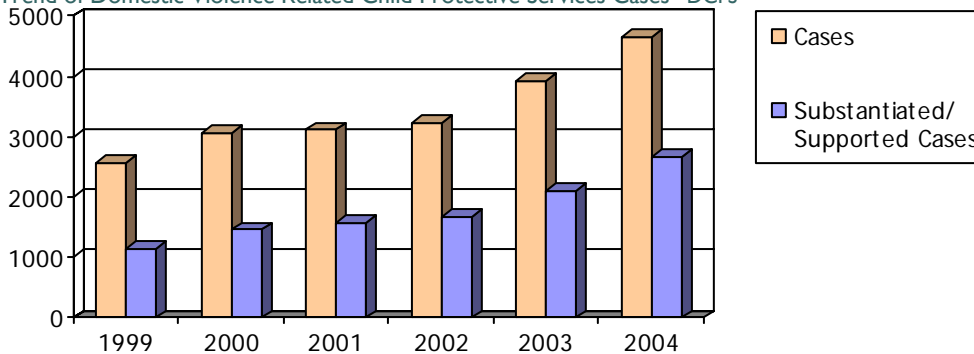
Participant evaluation comments indicated that the training was "very informative," "very educational," and "very engaging," and "very beneficial to me." Participants also said they enjoyed the comfort and accessibility of the Sanderson Center. All in all, the training was a success and we're very

happy to have had so much help to create a good experience for the participants. We look forward to announcing the training schedule for 2005 in early January. If you need additional information about domestic violence training, contact Amber McKee at (801) 521-5544 x105 or ackee@udvc.org. Watch the UDVC website (www.udvc.org) for live and web-based training information and events.

-Amber McKee,
UDVC Training Coordinator

“In 2003 1,590 families had to be referred to alternate safe places, due to domestic violence shelters in their area being full”

Trend of Domestic Violence Related Child Protective Services Cases –DCFS





“Diversity is not a minority issue, but an issue that should be of concern to everybody and everyone can benefit from it.” - Jonathan Alger

“We're no longer arguing about riding in the back of the bus, but being the bus driver or the president of the bus company. We're not pushing for the right to buy the hot dog, but selling the hot dog and the right to own the hot dog franchise.” -Benjamin Hooks (U.S. civil rights activist, 1925-)



Are people from underserved communities represented in your workplace?

Solutions to Serving Underserved Communities

Asha Parekh from the YWCA knows the reality of the quote to the left by civil rights activist Benjamin Hooks, and so does Heather Roxburgh from Midvale Police Department. The knowledge they have in common is the importance of not only recognizing the need to reach out to underserved communities, but they work at organizations that took action to better serve sometimes forgotten populations. What they did was recruit people from underserved communities to reach out to meet the needs of their community. The results were an increase of service to those communities. For example, within one year of hiring a Refugee Outreach Coordinator, the YWCA Shelter tripled the number of refugees they served. In 2001, the Midvale Victim Assistance Program provided assistance to 131 primary and secondary Hispanic/Latino victims. After hiring a Spanish speaking Victim Advocate, Julie Johansen, and recruiting Spanish speaking Volunteer Victim Advocate, Carmen Contreras, the numbers dramatically increased. In 2002, they provided assistance to 319 primary and secondary Hispanic/Latino victims, and in 2003, they provided assistance to 436 primary and secondary Hispanic/Latino victims.

Identifying and wanting to serve underserved communities is an essential step. However, to affect positive outcomes, it is imperative to take the steps to make institutional changes to include all groups of people. In its simplest form, this is called increasing diversity. But diversity is not just about giving minorities an opportunity. Diversity is about everyone including people with disabilities and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered

communities. At a symposium about recruiting and retaining people of color in the workplace, Jonathan Alger and other presenters emphasized that “diversity is not a minority issue, but an issue that should be of concern to everybody and everyone can benefit from it.” Alger offers the example that “exposure to similarities across racial lines, and differences within racial groups, can overcome learned stereotypes and prejudices.”

Recruiting and retaining minorities in an organization to fulfill *diversity positions* is a great start but it is not enough. Actively recruiting volunteers, community leaders, and employers to decision making positions should be a core value of an organization. When only one or two people are hired to meet all needs of diversity in the workplace, they become overburdened. According to DiversityWeb, “Countless studies document the added pressures placed on a faculty member of color in a predominantly white environment,” which include “high expectations of faculty of color to address minority concerns for their institutions and the stresses of being an ‘only’ on a faculty.” This is especially true for Spanish speaking employees.

Latina Alliance Against Sexual Aggression identified that when there is a lack of bilingual direct service staff and volunteers “...many bilingual employees of victim service centers often find themselves overtaxed, underpaid, and sometimes expected to fulfill or supervise most of the center’s translation and interpretation needs.” Moreover, when staff is hired with additional language skills, they should be adequately compen-

sated. The Latino Social Work Organization views \$4000 as adequate compensation for the additional language skill.

People from underserved populations want to give back to their communities. Sometimes the only barrier is that they are simply never invited. To ensure that all communities are represented, organizations should review their board and staff as well as volunteers. Are people from underserved communities represented in these areas of your workplace? Are people from underserved communities being asked to collaborate with your organization? UDVC’s mission is *to lead a collaborative, statewide effort to eliminate domestic violence*. Do the memberships of our council, committees, and local domestic violence coalitions truly reflect an all inclusive collaborative effort, or are there people missing from the discussion? Following the example of the YWCA and the Midvale City Police Department, I urge all council, committee, and coalition members as well as our community partners to actively seek members from underserved communities and as the Diversity Coordinator for the UDVC, I will do everything I can to assist in fulfilling our mission statement by ensuring that everyone is included.

-Gabiella Archuleta,
UDVC Diversity Coordinator

Council Membership and Staff Changes

As the dynamics of domestic violence change so do the needs of the community. Throughout the last year, the UDVC has undergone changes in its number of staff, and its governance structure. At this time last year the UDVC employed three staff; the UDVC now employs five staff.

The UDVC has also undergone several membership changes. Currently there are three open membership positions on the UDVC. Anyone can apply for membership, if you are inter-

ested please contact the UDVC office at (801) 521-5544.

UDVC also would like to extend an open invitation to all community members to attend both the regular UDVC meetings and the Committee Meetings.

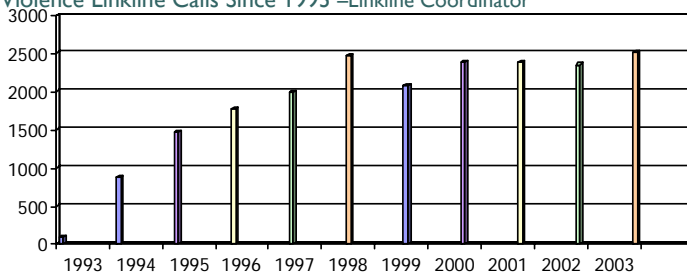
If you or your organization would like to contribute to the UDVC newsletter or if you have an emerging



issue you would like to see addressed by the UDVC please contact our office.

“From July 2003 to June 2004 approximately 2,538 women, 2,904 children and 30 men were served in Utah’s shelters”

Domestic Violence Linkline Calls Since 1993 –Linkline Coordinator



The New UDVC Website

The UDVC website has undergone many changes in the last year. Please visit the site at www.udvc.org and let us know what you think.

On the website you’ll find information about upcoming domestic violence trainings, conferences and other activities.



You can also find many domestic violence resources, to include: Annual Reports, statistics, press releases and the UDVC press kit, UDVC committee meeting information, computer safety information and many other informational resources.



“Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.”
--Hamilton Wright Mabi

Happy Holidays!



Visit us on the web at
www.udvc.org

For domestic violence information call:
1-800-897 LINK

If you have any comments about this
newsletter please our office at
801-521-5544

Mission Statement

To lead a collaborative , statewide effort to eliminate domestic violence.

Philosophy

- Domestic Violence is a crime.
- Domestic Violence is preventable.
- Victims/survivors are not to blame.
- Perpetrators are responsible for their own actions.
- The most effective way to reduce domestic violence is through coordinated, community efforts.

Goals

- Support laws that provide protection and accountability.
- Educate public and professional entities to understand and effectively address domestic violence as a critical social issue.
- Provide effective resources for victims perpetrators, families and communities.

An Overview

Established in the late 1970's, the Utah Domestic Violence Council (UDVC) represents various public and private providers, and advocacy and allied agency group from rural and urban Utah working in collaboration with the Governor's Cabinet Council on Domestic violence and 23 local coalitions, the UDVC coordinates intervention and educates about key legislation and resource development. Projects include six resource libraries across the state, various free publications , training, conference coordination, awareness campaigns and technical assistance.

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